(d) The Government has given top priority for controlling the prices of essential commodities within reasonable limits Availability of selected essential commodities is monitored by various Ministries in Government. In order to augment the easy availability, Government has put the import of sugar, edible oils and cotton under open general licence. Commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene soft coke and edible oils are being distributed through the net work of PDS at below market prices. State Governments have been requested to take action against hoarders, black marketeers and those indulging in unfair trade practices under the EC Act and other similar legislations. Stock holding limits of edible oils and oils seeds with traders, manufacturers and dealers have been reduced by 50 per cent to increase their availability in the market.

Checking the sale of sub-standard goods by BIS.

6226. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5232 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2.5.94 and to state:

(a) whether the Buerau of Indian Standards have taken any steps to check the sale of sub-standard goods particularly the cosmetic goods in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether raids have been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof for the last two years and what action was taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) The Bureau of Indian Standards takes necessary steps to check the misuse of BIS Standard Mark (ISI Mark) on goods in accordance with the Certification Marks Scheme. BIS certification in respect of cosmetic goods is voluntary. Quality of these goods is regulated by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 administered by the Drugs Controller.

Amendment of draft rules on rationalisation of packing size of soft drink

6227. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the draft rules were amended to rationalise the packing sizes of soft drink bottles in March, 1993 and Coca Cola had not been granted permission to set up a company in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rationalisation measure was in consumer interest and was based on the recommendations of the Standing Expert Committee of the Civil Supplies Ministry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that after Coca Cola entered into India, Government are changing its thinking, inspite of Government's draft amended rules having received support from all Chambers of Commerce, Consumer Bodies and Standing Commitee, to whom the case was referred twice after the March notification; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The draft rules notified in March, 1993 for eliciting comments were finalised and finally notified vide GSR No. 314(E) dated 13.3.1994. Granting permission to set up a company is outside the purview of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, and the Act under which the rules have been framed.

(b) to (d) Rationalisation is in the interest of consumers. The final antendment of meat and escalation of prices of meat overall policy of liberalisation.

Avilability of meat products in Delhi

6228. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a heavy shortage of meat and escalation of prices of meet, chicken and eggs in Delhi, following the High Court's orders restricting slaughter that the Idgah abattoir; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to make available meat products at resonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Following the Orders of Delhi High Court and subsequent strike by butchers in Delhi, meat has become scarce and prices of checken has gone up. Prices of eggs were reported to be steady during January—March, 1994.

(b) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that the Delhi High Court has ordered that the slaughter house at Idgah shall be closed from 31-12-93 and a new modern slaughter house be constructed before that date.

MCD appealed for extension of time to the High Court Meanwhile, the High Court has ordered that the slaughter house must be closed but if it continues for any reasons whatsoever, MCD should restrict to slaughtering of 2000 sheeps and goats and 500 buffaloes. MCD has reported that construction of new slaughter house in Alwar (Rajasthan) has taken a final shape and will take some time to come up. This will take care of export and even domestic requirements of Delhi. if necessary.

Functioning of Consumer Courts

6229. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer the answer to Unstarred Question 3601 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18.4.94 and to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Consumer Courts Conformed Confusion" in Indian Express dated 25-3-94 regarding functioning of Consumer Courts; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto and steps contemplated to renove the administrative and other problems of these courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information sent by Delhi State Goernment, the two District Forums in Delhi have been provided with all the snctioned posts, adequate funds, accommodation and infrastructure like photocopiers, duplicators, typewriters and sufficient furniture.

Supply of essential commodities to the backward areas of M.P.

6230. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of essential commodities in rural and backward areas of Madhya Pradesh for the last three to four months;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested the Central Government to enhance the supply of essential commodities to that State;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Central Government in this regard; and

(d) how much essential commodities have been increased to that State for the last three months?